HOUSE DISTRICT COMMITTEE HEARS MORE EVIDENCE IN INQUIRY ON GAS

Expert Pumphreys, of Stevens Institute of Technology, Again on Stand.

ANSWERS GIVEN MANY QUESTIONS

Tells of Problems Connected With Gas Manufacture Here and Elsewhere.

Following is the continuation of the testimony given on Friday before the House of Representatives Committee on the District of Columbia in the hearing ntative Coudrey's bill, con cerning the Washington Gaslight Com

Committee on District of Columbia, House of Representatives, April 8, 1919. Statement of Mr. Alexander C. Hum

Coal Gas Enriched.

a candiepower of 18. There we furish almost entirely coal gas, and it has to be enriched to get it up to 18. We make water gas for emergencies. ago, 85 cents, with a candlepowe

indi is a complicated case. The lower is low to my certain knowlint not reported. They have a of 50 cents for fuel gas and 75 or illuminating, with a note that proportion is used at the 50-cent competing with natural gas, so does not greatly affect the averce received.

No Candlepower Reported.

Shows a Difference.

perature between the cold and the warm climates, and it would also depend upon the temperature of the gas as registered at the station meter, and the average temperature of the gas as registered at the consumer's meter. It is an extremely difficult thing to average, and it is always a source of loss to the company. The company has to stand that loss and not the consumer.

Mr. Cary—There would be consumer.

Dut I have not looked it up since for a more looked it up since for some parts. Mr. Cary—Now, Mr. Humphreys, you spoke about Mr. Bride's bill of \$37. Still, that bill ran for about a year, I believe, did it not, Mr. Bride-1t ran for about a year, I believe. did it not, Mr. Bride's bill of \$37. Still, that bill ran for about a year, I believe did it not, Mr. Bride's bill of \$37. Still, that bill ran for about a year, I believe did it not, Mr. Bride's bill of \$37. Still, that bill ran for about a year, I believe did it not, Mr. Bride's bill of \$37. Still, that bill ran for about a year, I believe did it not, Mr. Bride's bill of \$37. Still, that bill ran for about a year, I believe did it not, Mr. Bride's bill of \$37. Still, that bill ran for about a year, I believe did it not, Mr. Bride's bill of \$37. Still, that bill ran for about a year, I believe did it not, Mr. Bride's bill of \$37. Still, that bill ran for about a year, I believe did it not, Mr. Bride's bill of \$37. Still, that bill ran for about a year, I believe did it not, Mr. Bride's bill of \$37. Still, that bill ran for about a year, I believe did it not, Mr. Bride's bill of \$37. Still, that bill ran for about a year, I believe did it not, Mr. Bride's bill of \$37. Still, that bill ran for about a year, I believe did it not, Mr. Bride's bill of \$37. Still, that bill ran for about a year, I believe did it not, Mr. Bride's bill of \$37. Still, that bill ran for about a year, I believe did it not, Mr. Bride's bill of \$37. Still, that bill ran for about a year, I believe did it not, Mr. Bride's bill of \$37. Still, that bill ran for about a year, I believe di

and not the consumer.

Mr. Cary—There would be more condensation in your city. Buffalo, or in my city. Milwaukee. as compared with Washington; Buffalo and Milwaukee being colder climates?

are higher now than when the price was \$1.25.

Mr. Humphreys—I have no-doubt that some of them say so.

Mr. Cary—And they also state that they have not used a particle more gas; not burning any more jets. I want to ask you this question: Is it possible to make a watch run faster, or a clock run faster.

Mr. Humphreys-Certainly; yes, sir.
Mr. Cary-The same mechanism is in
the meters as you would find in a clock,

Different Proposition. Mr. Humphreys-No, sir; that is an ntirely different proposition. Mr. Cary-You can make it run faster,

Mr. Humphreys-You can deliberately, but I never knew of a company that thought of doing so. The meters here are all tested and sealed by a govern-

readiness is a fixed six a fix

The state of the s

coal gas?

Mr. Humphreys—Here?

Mr. Cary—Yes.

Mr. Humphreys—I had intended to figure it out, but I have not done so. My recollection is that there is about 65 per cent water gas and 35 per cent coal gas, but I would not like to say positively about that. Of course, the company can give you that information. But I have not looked it up since 1907.

Now, Mr. Humphre's, you touched upon Milwauke, in regard to the pipe Ing colder climates?

Mr. Humphreys—Yes, sir.

Mr. Cary—You state that the bills have not increased since the reduction in the price of gas in Washington?

Mr. Humphreys—I did not so state.

Mr. Cary—Well, what did you state? You stated that there was a reduction in price, and did you say that the bills are less?

Mr. Cary—Well, what did you state? You stated that there was a reduction in price, and did you say that the bills are less? alone brought it from the curb to the meter, but they piped the whole house, say that that has occurred quite often.
Mr. Humphreys—I suppose that it
was because it was Mr. Cary.
Mr. Cary—No; it was common at the

less?

Mr. Humphreys—I was probably speaking about an entirely different matter from what you have in mind. I was talking of the average sales per meter, and I showed that for the years 1907 and 1909 the sales per meter, in dollars and cents, were very nearly alike. I gave that comparison which I think you probably have in mind.

Mr. Cary—What I want to get at is this: A great many of the people come to me, and they say that their gas bills are higher now than when the price was \$1.25.

Now, as to the by-products of this for just a moment? They charged a much higher price then, and so, perhaps, they could better afford to give away services.

Mr. Cary-Well, it was \$1; that is \$1.20, Mr. Cary—well, it was \$1, that is \$1.20, with 125 per cent off.
Mr. Humphreys—All right.
Mr. Cary—One dollar net. Now, I was going to ask you another question about the by-products of the company—tar, ammonia, and coke. Are the receipts

ters, and if that meter registers correctly, then the consumer gets the gas.

Asking for Returns.

Mr. Humphreys—The way it is put in it this: I ricean that you are asking for the returns upon residuals. In the printed report they put it in as part of the receipts, and when we come to figure the cost of gas we regard this as gas—making business. But it is the universal practice to deduct the cost of gas from the amount received from the residuals in arriving at the cost per thousand. That is the way I have nor fosses. Mr. Cary—Just one more question. In the printed it.

Mr. Cary—I make profit.

Aching for Returns.

Mr. Humphreys—The way it is put in the consumer gets the gas to find out what in it is the constant of the meter, and I have not found a company in late westigation. It is to find out what amount of money the gas company has amount of money the gas company.

Mr. Cary—In the the consumer gets the gas, and not so an examination of the meter, and I have not found a company in late westigation. It is to find out what is the constitution. However, and I have not found a company in late westigation. It is to find out what is amount of money the gas company has amount of money the gas company.

Mr. Humphreys—You do not object to that the cost of gas we regard this as a gas—making business. But it is the universal practice to deduct the cost of gas we regard this as gas—and in the business?

Asking for Returns.

Mr. Humphreys—You do not object to that the cost of find out what is amount of money the gas company.

Mr. Humphreys—You do not object to that the cost of money the gas company has amount of money the gas company.

Mr. Humphreys—You do not object to that the cost of the out of money the gas company.

Mr. Cary—It is to find out what is the cost of find out what is the cost of find out what is the cost of gas we regard this as gas—addition—House resolution—House resolution—House resolution—House resolution—House resolution—House resolution—House resolution—House resolution—House resolution—House resolu

ment attached to it.

The clerk read as follows:

"Washington, D. C., April 5, 1910.

"Hon. William J. Cary,

"House of Representatives,

Washington, D. C.

"Dear Sir. I hand you herewith statement of the gas bills at my residence,
No. 1375 Irving street, in this city, for your information and such use as you may put the same to. During all this time there has been no change in my household, the same number of people there all the time. You wi'l notice that under the old rate of 12½ cents per 100 cubic feet, with a discount of 30 cents, making 90 cents per 1,000, the average is about 4,500 cubic feet, being an excess bill at the decreased price. The result to the consumer is that we are paying, as shown by this statement, considerable more for gas consumed under the decreased price than formerly at the increased rate. It would appear that the reduction was apparent only, and if this same ratio holds good the gas company, doubtless by increased pressure, is charging more for gas than they have heretofore attempted to col-

Mr. Cary—By the day I meant, your services. Then I suppose it is for the job, if it ge not for the day?

Mr. Hamphreys—If the pends upon the services, sir, which, I dort know in advance. Mr. Will is made out after I get same. Mr. Cary—and you don't care to state what I is is?

Mr. Humphreys—Certainly not; that is my private business. I do not know yet what I will not for my services, and will not know what happens? You me delivering the congruence of the pressure much more gas than he my private business. I do not know yet what I am going to charge this compress of the form and the pressure of the care and you are delivering the congruence of the pressure of the congruence of the consumer and you are delivering the congruence of the consumer and you are delivering the congruence of the consumer and you are delivering the congruence of the consumer and you are delivering the congruence of the consumer and you are delivering the congruence of the congruence of the consumer and you are delivering the congruence of the consumer and you are delivering the congruence of the consumer of the consumer and the state of the clerk read in this letter and the state the clerk read the state the clerk read this letter and the state the clerk read as follows:

The clerk read this letter and the state then the new rate of il congruence that much more gas than he congruenc The result in at the decreased price. The results as should 4,500 cubic feet, being a price as a burner, as Mr. Bride states, will suct a burner of an aburner, as the burner may be a burner, as a supplied in Washington to one of the burner may be a burner, as the burner, as the burner may be a burner, as the

ed—
Ir. Coudrey—But you do not answer.
Ir. Humphreys—You may think I am
answering, but I am answering your
estion, and I will show you that I am
a manner.

Mr. Humphreys—You may think I am not answering, but I am answering your question, and I will show you that I am in a moment.

Mr. Coudrey—Pardon me.

Explanation by Witness.

Mr. Humphreys—Now that would determine whether there has been an overcharge to the consumers. Now, does it make the slightest difference in fairness to the company, or to the consumers, what they did with their earnings? If they decide to pay out a certain amount in dividends and to reinvest a certain amount in the necessary extensions of plant rather than to pay it out all in dividends, it does not alter the question of fair return upon investment.' We can give you—we could not give it today, because we would have to go back ten or twenty years—but we can give you what the company added in the way of investment, year by year, and we could show what the earnings have been year by year. If you should

Mr. Humphreys-Will you permit me to say just a word in reply to that. What I have already done for the year 1909-would that answer the purpose.

heaper. Mr. Humphreys-Haven't they changed

Gives His Impression.

that lately

Mr. Coudrey-That is my impression am a gas user in St. Louis. My impression is that they charge different prices, and I think you stated so a mo-

ment ago. Mr. Humphreys-I am inclined to think that they have come or are coming back to one meter. I know the system of dif-ferent rates for different uses has created a great deal of dissatisfaction, and I thought they had changed back to one rate. The rates I quoted, as already explained, were from a list prepared two years ago by Mr. Glass, of Milwaukee.

Mr. Coudrey—Probably they are going to change it. You quoted prices in different cities, and you mentioned Richmond, Va.; Providence, R. I.; St. Paul, Trenton, and I think Wheeling, W. Va. If we are going to try to make comparisons, let me say that Washington is about the tenth city in the Union, is it not?

Mr. Humphreys—Something like that, I think.

Mr. Coudrey—We will say the tenth or he twelfth, whatever it is. We ought o take the ten or twelve large cities and make our comparisons in order to

1309—would that answer the purpose.

Mr. Coudrey—No. I do not want you to take just one year, but we should at least take ten years, the last ten years, and then average it.

Mr. Humphreys—What we have done for this year—would not that answer your purpose, if shown for ten years, the amount of earnings each year on the investment?

Mr. Coudrey—No. What I want is the amount of money put into the business. I do not mean to turn the earnings back into the company.

Mr. Humphreys—You do not object to that. For instance, a gentleman told me here the other day in Washington that he was interested in a certain corporation that made, I think, \$35,000 per year out \$1,000,000 capital. That was his own

Mr. Coudrey—I think, \$35,000 per year out \$1,000,000 capital. That was his own

Mr. Coudrey—I think the great trouble